

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 VALLET 02520 211603Z

60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAJ-01

DRC-01 /092 W

----- 070375

R 211530Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5098

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX SEVEN

S E C R E T VALLETTA 2520

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS,T, UK, IS

SUBJ: IRAELI PATROL CRAFT

REF: VALLETTA 2475

1. BRIT HICOMOFF INFORMS US THAT RAF SPOTTED TWO
ISRAELI PATROL CRAFT SOME SIXTY MILES TO SOUTHWEST
OF MALTA MORNING DEC 21. TWO VESSELS APPROACHED
MALTA TO ABOUT SEVEN MILES OFF COAST; PROCEEDED
NORTHWESTERLY AROUND GOZO; AND THEN HEADED NORTHERLY
TOWARD SICILY.

2. HICOMOFF HAD SEEN ISRAELI FIRST SECRETARY
DAVID ILAN, WHO SAID HIS EMBASSY HAD NO KNOWLEDGE
THAT PATROL CRAFT WERE IN VICINITY OF MALTA. ILAN

SECRET

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ALSO TOLD HICOMOFF THAT THERE STILL HAD BEEN NO
RESPONSE TO ISRAEL NOTE, AND THAT HE BELIEVES

QUESTION OF MINTOFF BREAKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL
PROBABLY DROPPED.

3. HICOMOFF SAID BRIT HIGH COMMISSIONER HAD BRIEFLY
CONSIDERED DESIRABILITY OF INFORMING MINTOFF OF
SIGHTING OF ISRAELI PATROL CRAFT, BUT DECIDED NOT
RPT NOT TO INFORM ANYONE (INCLUDING ITALIAN
AMBASSADOR, WHO MIGHT TELL MINTOFF) EXCEPT ISRAELIS
AND US.TUCKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005